

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Dispatches Returns to Sensationalise Islamic Extremism**

In response to the Dispatches documentary broadcast on Channel 4 on 1 September 2008, *Undercover Mosque – The Return*, the Islamic Cultural Centre wishes to make it clear that none of the speakers featured on the programme were authorised to speak at our centre despite requesting official permission. The ICC categorically rejects and condemns any teaching which aims to incite division and rancour between communities in our country.

We feel obliged to make this clear as after Channel 4 broadcast 'Undercover Mosque' in 2007 the ICC received threats and hate mail and one of the Imams at the Mosque was attacked and seriously injured. The ICC would ask that there is no repeat of this violent behaviour as it does not condone violence or intolerance towards any faith.

We have a proud history of working to improve ties between different faith groups and communities. This includes actively working with synagogues, churches and other places of worship inviting representatives to share in our religious celebrations and to work towards a peaceful future. We are disappointed that Channel 4 chose not to include details of this work in its broadcast.

"The ICC assures British Muslims that it will not be deflected from its work to promote the teachings of Islam, good citizenship and moderation and will continue to foster inter-faith dialogue to discourage extremism. It is grateful for numerous messages of support following the Dispatches programme from leading British Muslim organisations and non-Muslims throughout the UK" said Dr Ahmad Al-Dubayan, Director-General of the Islamic Cultural Centre, London.

The ICC is committed to building relationships between faiths and promoting cross-cultural understanding and urges the UK media to support its aims.

ENDS

5<sup>th</sup> September 2008